well desist from further praise. The teacher of anatomy will find it advantageous to use these plates for purposes of demonstration, but he ought to be privileged to re-arrange the plates to suit himself, so as to be able conveniently to exhibit horizontal and vertical sections side by side. We understand that a very limited edition of this work has been published. We trust that the author and publishers may see fit to issue another and larger edition before long. B. S.

Treatise on Therapeutics. Comprising Materia Medica and Toxicology, with Special Reference to the Application of the Physiological Action of Drugs to Clinical Medicine. By H. C. Wood, M.D., Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics in the University of Pennsylvania, etc. Fifth edition, revised and enlarged. Philadelphia : J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1883, pp. 740.

Whether an author is to be envied in having to re-issue a work after scarcely six months' time, may be an open question. Certainly this fact alone is sufficient to show the esteem in which such a book is held ; and when to this fact the author in a very brief preface tells us that he has by this been stimulated to render the volume, as far as lay in his power, worthy of the kind judgment and continued favor of his co-laborers, then we may rest assured that the book before us presents the newest and broadest thoughts and facts in therapeutical science. At this late day a review of the work is entirely superfluous, and that which has been said about the fourth edition will also apply to this one. New and insufficiently tried drugs and reported new actions of old ones have, with Dr. Wood's wonted conservatism, been entirely ignored or only slightly referred to. This, in the eyes of many, will appear a virtue instead of a fault, but even since the appearance of this fifth edition, the action of certain drugs has attracted the attention of the medical world, which, in the next revision of the work, will have to receive attention. In turning over its familiar leaves it becomes noticeable that, particularly in the parts treating of the physiological action of drugs, facts follow facts with such bewildering rapidity that the study of page after page becomes an absolute necessity. It would be invidious to specify any part of the work as better than the rest. The entire work is one which can receive unreserved recommendation to both students and practitioners. G. W. Jacoby.

Zur Einleitung in die Elektrotherapie. By Dr. C. W. Müller. Wiesbaden, 1885. J. F. Bergmann.

The title of this little book is somewhat misleading, but in a way that does great credit to its author. It is not an introduction to electro-therapeutics after the manner of other works with similar titles ; it is a strictly scientific treatise on some of the most intricate problems suggested by the application of electricity to the human body. Dr. Müller is a practising physician at Wiesbaden, who, as the book proves, has not only had a vast experience in electro-therapeutic matters, but in his practice has aimed at purely scientific methods.

The author is of the opinion that at the present day no good work can be done in electro-therapeutics without the use of an absolute galvanometer. The first part of his treatise is, therefore, taken up with a consideration of the various instruments that have been constructed for this purpose. He has no hesitation in recommending Hirschmann's vertical astatic galvanometer[1] as by far the best instrument of the kind. Three of these galvanometers were carefully compared with one another, and found to be exceedingly accurate.

In the second part of his little book, Dr. Müller sets out to demonstrate the necessity of measuring accurately the current strength employed in the treatment of various forms of diseases. His conclusion is that the strength of current generally employed is far in excess of what is needed or beneficial. His rule is, "weak, short, and frequent" applications. The author's views have met with considerable opposition in Germany, and will perhaps be a surprise to all those who were in the habit of thinking that, as a rule, the greater the current-strength the more pronounced the therapeutic effect. In our own opinion, while we insist that further proof of the correctness of Dr. Müller's views must be forthcoming before they can be finally accepted, we wish to remind the reader, that until very recently the difficulties of estimating the current-strength were very great, and that few electro-therapentists can be as certain of the electric doses they administered as Dr. Müller is of his. The author has already published an answer to his critics in *Mendel's Neurologisches Centralblatt* (1885, Nos. 9 and 10); and in those articles refers to a number of cases in which his method was eminently successful. A case of tic douloureux was cured by his method after two years' treatment! The question arises (and this the author recognizes), Was the improvement due to the treatment? and what would have been the effect in this very case of stronger applications and longer sittings? As we have said, judgment must be deferred on this head.

To return to the book under consideration. The author treats at some length of the necessity of noting the *density* of current,—a point which is too often disregarded. He suggests that in all electrical applications, not only the milliampères but the size of the electrodes also be noted. The expression $\frac{1}{5}$ or $\frac{1}{20}$ would mean that a current of 1 milliampère is applied to the body through an electrode of 5 or 20 sq. c. m. of surface.

There is a good chapter on resistance, and much else of interest that cannot be referred to here.

All interested in the *science* of medical electricity will do well to *study* this little book; those who are interested simply in the *art* of applying electricity may *read* its pages to advantage. B. S.

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[1] For a description of this instrument see p. 19 of this volume.